

Resolution authorizing a one year contract with Franklin Park Conservatory to provide programs that foster environmental understanding, promote tourism, and food access (Community Partnerships) (\$500,000)

WHEREAS, Franklin Park Conservatory is one of Ohio's most significant urban parks dedicated to the promotion of environmental appreciation and ecological awareness; and

WHEREAS, the Conservatory maintains unique botanical collections which provide lifelong learning opportunities and fosters community gardening to transform abandoned urban spaces into productive gardens and attractive green spaces; and

WHEREAS, the Conservatory provides educational opportunities for area residents, draws visitors from across the nation and abroad, and improves neighborhoods throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, the Conservatory's Community Garden Campus contains an apiary and beekeeping program which educates people about the importance of honeybees and other pollinators, encourages entrepreneurial participation in the apicultural industry, and supports agriculture and the green industry throughout Franklin County and Ohio; and

WHEREAS, in order to address chronic problems of food access and job training in low income areas, the Conservatory will initiate a new Teen Corps program that will provide young people ages 14-18 with horticulture and business education. In doing so they learn to work in the garden, grow produce, turn their produce into a product, and then market and sell the product – giving them business experience and learning about business planning, market research, and marketing; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to continue its support of the Conservatory's mission and programs and does so pursuant to Sections 755.16 and 755.18 of the Ohio Revised Code; now, therefore;

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO;

That the attached contract for services with the Franklin Park Conservatory for the period of January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015 and the attached purchase order, individually described on the accompanying Purchase Order Proof List in an amount not to exceed \$500,000, is hereby approved.

Prepared by Kate Matheny

Cc: Auditor

Franklin Park Conservatory